Tamil Nadu Government has reported that each family card holder is entitled to a maximum of 12 kg of rice through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The consumers were given an optional quantity of 8 kg of raw rice per card per month from November, 1990 till February, 1992 due to availability of adequate stocks.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Tamil Nadu Government has reported effective steps hove been taken to eliminate bogus units/cards.

(d) End Retail Prices of levy sugar under the PDS was revised to Rs. 6.90 per kg with effect from 21-1-1992. Tamil Nadu Government has reported that there has been no further increase in levy sugar prices under the PDS.

Persons/Middle Level Functionaries sent Abroad for Training

4637. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of general category and SC|ST persons|middle level functionaries sent for training abroad by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries during the last three years, subsidiary-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that no SC/ST candidates have been sent from E-4/E-5 category for the last 10-15 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken that SC/ST candidates from the above categories are provided training opportunities abroad under Colombo Plan by providing suitable age-relaxation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Price firing on the miners of Western Coalfields Limited

4638. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that police opened fire on the coal miners of Western Coalfields Limited near Nagpur when they gheraoed the area Manager of the coalfields;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a mine accident led to the death of a miner which prompted the miners to protest against the alleged irregularities in that case;

(c) what are the alleged irregularities in the case leading to the death and accident; and

(d) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the accident as well as the firing and if so, by when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and)b) On 20-7-92 one worker of Rajpur Colliery was fatally injured in an accident due to side fall. Persons from Rajpur Colliery and nearby colony gathered near the colliery and began agitating against the management. Later about 700 to 800 persons including outsiders and miscreants moved to the residence of the Sub-Area Manager and some of them forcibly entered the residence in a violent and aggressive mood. After lathi charge failed to control the situation, the police fired in the air and later opened fire against the agitators.

(c) and (d) The statutory enquiry into the accident is being conducted by the Directorate General of Mines Safety. The exact cause of the accident will be known only after the statutory enquiry by DGMS is complete. Government of Maharashtra has instituted a magisterial enquiry into the firing. The reports of the enquiry are expected to be available soon.